

## A FLUID DISPENSER

### Related Applications

This application claims priority from UK patent application No. 0 402 693.6 filed 6 February 2004, the content of which is incorporated herein by reference.

This application is also related to the Applicant's PCT patent applications which have been filed concurrently herewith under the Applicant's references PB60733-A 10/597,624, PB60733-B 10/597,678, PB60733-C 10/597,683, PB60733-E 10/597,689, PB60733-G 10/597,703 (all entitled 'A Fluid Dispenser') and PB60733-F 10/597,692 (entitled 'A Metering Pump System') and which respectively claim priority from UK patent application Nos. 0 402 690.2, 0 402 691.0, 0 402 692.8, 0 402 694.4, 0 402 697.7 and 0 402 695.1 all filed 6 February 2004, the contents of all of these applications hereby being incorporated herein by reference.

### Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to a dispenser for dispensing a metered volume of a fluid product and is particularly, but not exclusively, concerned with a dispenser for dispensing a metered volume of a fluid medicament, for instance medicaments having liquid, gaseous, powder or topical (cream, paste etc.) formulations. The invention also has application in the area of consumer healthcare, as in the case of toothpaste, sun cream lotion etc.

### Background of the Invention

Fluid product dispensers having metering mechanisms are known in the art. As an example, in the medical field the use of metered dose inhalers (MDIs) is well established. In a MDI, the fluid product is contained under pressure in a canister having an open end closed off by a valve mechanism. The valve mechanism has a valve body which defines a fixed volume metering chamber through which a valve stem is sealingly slidably between filling and discharging positions. In the